

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00715 160703Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
OPR-02 SY-05 /073 W  
-----110043 160716Z /17  
R 160405Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3267  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, PP  
SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY SITUATION STILL UNRESOLVED

REF: PORT MORESBY 0702

1. SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA (UPNG) STUDENTS  
REMAIN ON STRIKE WITH SHOWDOWN EXPECTED MAY 17. UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL ON MAY 15 REFUSED TO LIFT TWO YEAR SUSPENSION ON  
FORMER STUDENT LEADER. MOVE WAS ENDORSED BY PRIME MINISTER  
SOMARE WHO INSTRUCTED AUTHORITIES TO RESUME LECTURES MAY 17,  
AT WHICH TIME STUDENTS MUST ATTEND CLASSES OR LOSE SCHOLAR-  
SHIPS AND RETURN HOME. STUDENTS NOW DECIDING NEXT MOVE.  
END SUMMARY.

2. AT MAY 14 MEETING UPNG STUDENTS VOTED TO CONTINUE STRIKE  
PROTESTING TWO-YEAR SUSPENSION OF FORMER STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT VINCENT TOLIMAN. STUDENTS ALSO DECIDED TO SEND  
DELEGATION TO MEET WITH UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING DAY.  
AT THAT MEETING, STUDENTS WERE TOLD DEMANDS WOULD NOT BE  
HEARD UNLESS THEY HAD FRESH EVIDENCE ON WHY TOLIMAN SHOULD  
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PAGE 02 PORT M 00715 160703Z

BE REINSTATED. THEY HAD NONE. COUNCIL MET EVENING MAY 15  
WITH PRIME MINISTER SOMARE, DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER  
AND ACTING EDUCATION MINISTER. SOMARE ENDORSED COUNCIL'S  
DECISION AND INSTRUCTED UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES TO  
RESUME LECTURES MAY 17 AND TO WITHDRAW NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS  
FROM ALL STUDENTS WHO REFUSE TO ATTEND CLASSES.

3. ROSE KEKEDO, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND CHAIRWOMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, HANDLING BULK OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH STUDENTS. SHE TOLD US MORNING MAY 16 THAT STUDENTS WOULD DECIDE IN SECRET BALLOT WHETHER TO BACK DOWN OR NOT. DESPITE MANY HOURS OF MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS, SHE SAID SHE HAD NO IDEA AS TO HOW THEY WOULD VOTE.

4. WHILE CAMPUS QUIET AND UNBARRICADED TODAY, TOMORROW UNPREDICTABLE. STUDENTS AT GOROKA TEACHERS COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AT LAE RETURNED TO CLASSES MAY 15 BUT THREATENED RENEWED WALKOUT IF UPNG MATTER NOT RESOLVED TO STUDENTS' SATISFACTION.

5. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT TO SITUATION IS CONTINUED ABSENCE AND SILENCE OF EDUCATION MINISTER TAMMUR AND EDUCATION SECRETARY TOLOLO. BOTH WERE HARD-LINERS AGAINST STUDENT PROTESTS DURING 1977 BURRIDGE "SPY" CASE. NOW, HOWEVER, ISSUE CENTERS ON A FELLOW TOLAI AND AS IS COMMON IN PNG'S WANTOK SYSTEM, TRIBAL OR CLAM CONSIDERATIONS COME FIRST AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES SECOND.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTM00715  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780206-0227  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 2677921  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNIVERSITY SITUATION STILL UNRESOLVED  
**TAGS:** PINS, PORS, SEDU, PP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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